

NEWS RELEASE

TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



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NEW GED TESTING REQUIREMENTS *"PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT"*

NASHVILLE - Beginning **January 1, 2003**, people in the state of Tennessee wishing to take the GED exam will have to take a practice test prior to the official exam. The new state requirement will decrease failure and alleviate frustration in those pursuing their high school equivalency credential.

According to Commissioner Mark Reineke, "With this new Practice Test taking effect at the first of the year, it is important that all Tennesseans who still have to pass the GED know where they stand before taking the official test," Reineke said. "Our offices are working hard to help any and all Tennesseans finish the exam."

The Official Practice Test (OPT), sanctioned by the American Council on Education, can predict within a point or two how a person will score on the actual GED exam. The results can be interpreted for the student, identifying which areas need study. The exam is a half-length version of the real test and gives the student a feel for the real seven and a half-hour exam.

"In Tennessee, 33% of the adult population lacks a high school diploma. These individuals are far less likely to be employed full-time, to earn high wages and to vote. By increasing the potential to pass the GED with the Official Practice Test, we hope to raise the confidence level and success rate for a vast number of Tennesseans," Reineke said.

There is no set score a person must achieve on the Practice Test before taking the GED test; however once a person has been shown that he needs further study, he will know accurately which areas to focus attention. The Practice Test will be administered under the same conditions local GED Test Centers use so that the results are as accurate as possible. Time limits will be enforced, and learning and physical disability accommodations will be made as necessary.

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NOTE: Information about the GED is available at:
<http://www.state.tn.us/labor-wfd/AE/index.htm>

The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development is an equal opportunity employer. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

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